

**Abstract 318**

**TITLE:** A Statewide Coordinated Approach to Deliver HIV/AIDS Prevention Education to Diverse Populations

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**ISSUE:** The HIV/AIDS Office of the Tennessee Department of Education coordinates an HIV/AIDS Prevention Education program (funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) that involves the cooperation of several organizations throughout the state. These programs include state agencies, a privately funded agency, community-based organizations, and a first person HIV/AIDS speaker. The agencies include: Tennessee Department of Children's Services, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC), the Metropolitan Nashville Downtown YMCA, and the DeDe Wallace Center.

**SETTING:** This program covers the entire state of Tennessee, and is primarily directed toward teachers in K-12 schools.

**PROJECT:** Jerry Swaim, HIV/AIDS Director for the Tennessee Department of Education, coordinates the statewide program. Grant funds (supplied by HIV/AIDS Office of the Tennessee Department of Education) are provided to the various agencies for the purpose of delivering HIV/AIDS prevention education to a variety of populations throughout the state. UTC's EHLS Department manages the HIV/AIDS Teacher Training Center, which coordinates the HIV/AIDS staff development opportunities for school employees in all the school systems throughout the state. The Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS) delivers HIV/AIDS education to all incarcerated students and youth in residential centers throughout the state. The YMCA manages the SEAL program, which provides skill building and team building workshops to school children in four major metropolitan areas in the state. The DeDe Wallace's program called PACT (Practicing Abstinence through Communication Training) is an abstinence-based HIV/AIDS education program conducted in seventh and eighth grade middle school classrooms. The First Person speaker program is conducted by Deb Runions, a person who is infected with HIV and now living with AIDS. Her goal is to make the disease of AIDS real by putting a face to the staggering statistics.

**RESULTS:** This overall program presented HIV/AIDS prevention education to: 10,132 students, 1003 elementary teachers, 551 middle school teachers, 738 secondary school teachers, 155 special education teachers, 500 counselors, 20 school nurses, 80 school administrators, 280 community group representatives, 38 parents, 23 trainers of teachers, and 638 other (noncategory).

**LESSONS LEARNED:** The primary lesson learned was that, with a coordinated effort that involves a variety of agencies, both public and private, the HIV/AIDS Prevention message can be spread very effectively and efficiently.

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